

INTIMATIONS

THE CHINA DIRECTORY
1896.
With which is incorporated
"THE CHINA DIRECTORY."
This is the
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ISSUE,
and will be found, as usual, to show an advance
on preceding years both in fulness and accuracy
of information.
The DIRECTORY covers the whole of the
ports and cities of the Far East, from Peking to
Vladivostok, in which European reside.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

ALL these are selected by our London
House, bought direct at hand, imported in
wood and bottled by ourselves, thus saving all
intermediate profits, and enabling us to supply
the best goods at MODERATE PRICES.

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All are true Xeres Wines.

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grades, are guaranteed to be the genuine
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not artificially made from raisins and
currants, as is generally the case with
Cheap Wines.

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be pure Cognac, the difference in price
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vintage.

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quality and of greater age than most
brands in the market. The SCOTCH
WHISKY marked "E" is universally
popular, and is pronounced by the best
local connoisseurs to be superior to any
other brand in the Hongkong market.

We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits
to be genuine when bought direct from us in
the Colony or from our authorized Agents at
the Coast Ports.

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 31st January, 1896.

[22]

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should be addressed to THE EDITOR.
Correspondents forwarding their names and addresses
with communications addressed to the Editor, not
for publication, but as evidence of good faith.
All letters for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.
No anonymous signed communications that have
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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, APRIL 28th, 1896.

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD has reached Peking

and is now gathering up the reins of his

important office. Both Shanghai and

Tientsin have followed the example of

Hongkong in addressing His Excellency

as *passant* to the most urgent needs of the

foreign communities, and, as might have

been expected, their requests have taken

much the same form as our own—extension

of territory, transit pass questions, and

commercial facilities in general. As Sir

CLAUDE's predecessor said, there is no

reason why these questions should not be

practical in the immediate future, for the

Chinese have already yielded up the

principle involved in each. To secure them

is largely a matter of diplomatic finesse and

concerns the tact and personal qualifications

of the Minister rather than high policy. Sir

CLAUDE MACDONALD will find the celestial

capital a curious contrast to the scenes of

his previous efforts in diplomacy and ad-

ministration. His lot is now cast in an en-

vironment of petty intrigue and ignoble cal-

umny, where shifty procrastination is mis-

taken for statercraft and cunning is con-

founded with policy. Even in ordinary

finances Foreign Ministers have great difficulties

in carrying out the daily routine of their

work in Peking. But just now these diffi-

culties are raised to the nth degree by the

general political outlook and by the very

peculiar local situation. France is repre-

sented by an Anglophobe who not only

thinks it his duty to oppose us, but who

also, by the exigencies of the dual alliance,

can carry with him the strong man of the

situation, Count CASSEY. The extreme

tension in the recent colonial relations of

England and Germany will naturally be re-

flected everywhere, even in Far Cathay, and

we fear that Sir CLAUDE will not find Baron

VON SCHWEINBERG an enthusiastic colleague

in the removal of grievances. In Colonel

DENBY alone may our Minister look for the

cheerful support which attends unity of in-

terests and sympathy of feeling. Thence-

forward the fact that the extension of British

privileges is and always will be the exten-

sion of the privileges of all makes no dif-

ference in the attitude of our rivals; the

present trend of general Western policy

towards China is to secure exclusive pri-

vileges and it is by no means certain that

the ingenuity of diplomatists will not find a

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We translate the following from the Courier.

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